



CITY OF

MUKILTEO

## Accountability Report from Mayor Jennifer Gregerson



### To the Community, City Council and City Staff

October 3, 2016

*My monthly report on my activities, ensuring that I remain accountable and connected to our community.*

## 2016 Action Agenda

### School Partnerships

✓ This spring, we opened up the Kamiak Pool to the community with Free Stand-Up Paddleboard classes!

### Fire Prevention

✓ We surpassed our goal of reaching 2000 residents and brought a message of emergency preparedness and fire prevention to 3500 Mukilteans

### Partnerships for Seniors

### Park Stewardship

✓ The City's first ever Park Stewards, six great volunteers, have been trained and are out on the trails keeping things in shape!

### Aerospace Workforce

✓ Cool Girls in Aerospace, a summer workshop opportunity for middle school girls to get hands-on experience, was held August 15-18 at the Washington Aerospace Training Center on Paine Field.

### Supporting our Youth

Recent community forums have addressed teen suicide, opioid abuse, and dealing with grief and tragedy. There is still so much to be done.

### Green Team: Energy Use

Each city building has been scored and assessed. Next steps will be prioritized improvements, guided by our Environmental Management and Facility Renewal Program.

### See you Wednesday, October 5, 6-8pm at City Hall for my **Mayor's Budget Town Hall.**

Today, I present our 2017 Preliminary Budget to the City Council for their review and consideration.

We are Mukilteo Strong. This budget has an overriding priority: rebuilding our sense of community, commemorating those we have lost, and working together to confront violence and spread compassion.

**Invest in prevention and support.** Our budget includes funding for public outreach and community support to support the work of the Mukilteo Strong Alliance and help confront the challenges of mental health and violence in our community. This budget also includes expanded funding for our domestic violence coordinator to provide more resources and support for victims in Mukilteo.

**Remember those we have lost.** Our community has lost too many young lives to violence, suicide and substance abuse. Our budget includes funding to design and plan a permanent place to reflect and remember those we have lost and also to find peace and resolve to make our community better in their memory.

**Improve our community-school partnership.** Over the last few years, our Crime Prevention Officer has built strong and meaningful partnerships with our schools, this budget builds on that work by funding a full-time School Resource Officer. I also want to express my appreciation to the Council for their support and approval to start the program this year.

**Create more recreation opportunities for teens.** One of the messages I have heard loud and clear from parents and youth in our community is that kids often feel isolated, marginalized and like they don't belong. City government cannot solve this problem alone, but we can find new and better ways to bring our teens together in positive,

Mayor's 2016 Action Agenda

Park Stewardship Program • Green Team: Energy Use • Fire Prevention, Safety & Community Education • Partnerships for Our Seniors  
Supporting our Youth: Substance Abuse & Mental Health • School Partnerships • Aerospace Workforce: Cool Girls

constructive ways that create community. Our budget includes funding for more school-based recreation programming to continue partnering to open school facilities to the whole community.

**Our budget is balanced.** Every budget I have presented has balanced our revenues and expenditures and this budget continues my commitment.

**Align services with priorities.** City revenues continue to grow at a slower rate than our costs, so balancing our budget has required some tough choices to align our services with our priorities. Our largest proposed reduction is in the cost of medical, dental and vision benefits for our employees, where I am proposing that we shift to a lower cost set of plans that still retains similar levels of coverage.

**Prepare for a rainy day.** This budget continues my commitment to fully funding our City Reserve Fund at \$1 million. Because of prudent management in the past, we continue to maintain General Fund reserves far in excess of the two months required by City policy. During 2017, I intend to work with you to identify appropriate one-time uses for these excess reserves, to make the best use of these public funds.

**Empower our employees to serve.** We are fortunate to have an incredible team of city employees who serve our community. Unfortunately, a recently completed salary survey shows that many of our employees are not being paid commensurate to their contributions, which dampens morale and leads to turnover that delays our progress. Our budget includes cost of living increases for all employees, and it also funds targeted salary increases

for some non-represented positions as recommended by the salary survey.

**New resources to preserve core services.** In the first two budgets I proposed, I asked us to take a break from tax increases and live within our means. For two years, we have not raised taxes to support our city services although I have been clear this is not a long-term strategy. This budget proposes raising our property tax by one percent, a modest increase to ensure that our revenues better match the rising costs of providing core services. I will also ask for small adjustments to our fees and charges to ensure that everyone who uses City services contributes to help pay for them.

**Invest in our community.** Our budget continues our recent investments in our streets and sidewalks, stormwater system, and takes steps forward to implement our vision for the Waterfront and Japanese Gulch. We continue the important work of planning our new Harbour Reach Drive extension, a critical new connector that will bring all of South Mukilteo closer together. There is much more to this budget proposal than can be described in one message, but I wanted to share some of the key priorities I considered as I worked to prepare it. I am proud that we have created the most open and transparent budget process in our City's history. I am delivering this proposal to you a month sooner than required by law, and we have shared drafts and elements of the budget with the Council and your committees beginning in August. Your questions and input have helped me craft this proposal and I look forward to our continued work to finalize and adopt the budget.

As always, I am grateful to our

department directors, the Finance Department staff and our budget team for all their work in crafting this budget proposal. They have worked together to develop options and recommendations as I crafted my proposal, which have been critical for this final product.

I also look forward to public feedback on our budget. Later this week, I will host my third annual Budget Town Hall, which will be a great opportunity to hear from our community about our priorities for the coming year.

Every day, I am reminded that serving as Mayor is the best job I have ever had. I am so honored to have the opportunity to lead our community, and it is privilege to serve with our Council.



## IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY AND MOBILITY

- Attended Transportation Choices Coalition Transit Heroes event with Community Transit staff, and shared in accepting a "Transit Hero" award for Community Transit's efforts to expand service
- Attended the Edge of Amazing 2016 summit, and participated in several ways. I spoke about our City's efforts to expand safe places to bike and walk through our Biking Transit Walking Plan development and told my story of improving my health and activity. I also was honored to join Tulalip Tribes Chairperson Mel Sheldon in introducing the keynote speaker, Fania Davis, who works on restorative justice programs in Oakland, CA.
- Attended the American Public Transit Association national conference with other Community Transit board members and staff. I attended a number of sessions, including: a Conversation with FTA leadership who discussed their program focuses, grant programs which highlight repair and maintenance; First and Last Mile Planning and Solutions which discussed ways that transit agencies can support the connections that transit riders make to access transit including bike and pedestrian infrastructure and bike and ride share programs; a 2016 Political Overview with Paul Begala and Mike Murphy, discussing the national political landscape and some predictions; Mobility and Technology which covered technology innovations like predictability, tracking, payment options and other "cool" and some "creepy" technologies.

## SUPPORT A HEALTHY ECONOMY

- Celebrated the opening of Your



Mayor Gregerson was honored and overjoyed to officiate the wedding of two of her very best friends, at a beautiful camp in California's San Bernadino Forest. Alice Taylor graduated from Kamiak with Mayor Gregerson, and they met Katie Esposito in college at NYU.

Balance Sheet's Mukilteo offices in the Gold Gym building along the Speedway. They provide a host of accounting and professional support options for small businesses, and are a women-owned business, as well. They were excited to celebrate their new and remodeled space!

## FINANCIALLY HEALTHY CITY

- Worked with staff to prepare lodging tax grant application strategy for the City. I am pleased we were successful with all of our applications.



On a visit to Victoria with her husband, Mayor Gregerson appreciated this unique bike parking and bike repair station.

## AEROSPACE & PAINE FIELD

- Attended a Paine Field Airport Committee meeting with the Council Committee to discuss the pending litigation.

## MUKILTEO STRONG

- Met with LDS Church repre-

sentatives Jeff Lee and Dennis Frank to talk about concepts of a community-wide Day of Service to honor and support our strong community.

- Met with Domestic Violence Services Director Vicci Hilly and staff to talk about ways for DVS to support the Mukilteo community
- Facilitated the first Mukilteo Strong Alliance meeting. There is still a lot of pain and anger about the shootings and what happened to our community. I am hopeful about the community spirit that I can feel, however.
- Attended part of the City-sponsored Town Hall on Opioid Abuse. Great information was shared with those in attendance.



Mayor Gregerson joined Community Transit CEO Emmett Heath and Boardmember Jan Schuette, in accepting a Transit Heroes Award from Transportation Choices Coalition, acknowledging the success of planned expansions to CT's service.

## SUSTAINABLE CITY

- Attended the Live Healthy 2020 Working Group meeting to discuss goal setting and future plans for the program. We talked about some of the 2016 focus: empathy, resilience, equity and empowerment. There was a valuable conversation about mental wellbeing and connections to health, and how



to expand that focus within the initiative.

- Discussed an update on our action agenda plan to assess our energy use. We've finished the baseline data collection, conducted a preliminary energy walk-through audit, and can already show a 5% reduction in energy use throughout our buildings!
- Met with the City's Green Team to assess our efforts on the EnergyStar Bootcamp program to encourage reduced energy use by simple actions that each individual employee can take.



Mayor Gregerson and Mayor for a Day Mohuwa eagerly await the start of the Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival parade.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Had a wonderful time at the Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival! This year's event was filled with a strong and healthy community spirit and energy. I also had a great time with Mayor for a Day Mohuwa, who participated in several events with me, including a chili-cookoff-taste-test with some dishes cooked up by kids and organized by Harbour Pointe Orthodontics.
- Visited the Harbour Pointe Retirement Center to discuss upcoming issues with residents and other visitors.
- Met with homeowners from the Naketa Beach neighborhood to discuss their concerns about emergency response to their

community.

- Met new Mayor for a Day Mohuwa, who was able to accompany me on the city float, participate in judging a chili contest at Harbour Pointe Orthodontics, and attend the Lighthouse Festival VIP tent for fireworks and celebration!



Mayor Gregerson joined Mayor for a Day Mohuwa, and chefs from Amici Bistro and Sydney's Bakery in judging Harbour Pointe Orthodontics' chili cookoff.

## REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- Attended the South County Mayor's lunch and discussed regional organizations such as SnoCom and SERS. It is important to keep in touch and up to date on these issues.

## A GREAT TEAM

- Participated in labor negotiations with four of our five labor groups. Our goal is to resolve our agreements by the end of the year.